

Board of Nursing Guidance on Distance Learning in RN or PN Education Programs

As a result of changes to the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (18 VAC 90-20-10 et seq.) effective April 2, 2008, the Board of Nursing voted on May 20, 2008 that any student enrolled in a distance learning education program that does not meet the clinical requirements on or before April 2, 2008 must complete their program by December 31, 2009 in order to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN and be licensed in Virginia. After December 31, 2009, graduates of the above programs will not be able to be licensed in Virginia by examination or by endorsement.

The section of the regulation is provided below:

18VAC90-20-120(E) A nursing education program preparing for licensure as a practical nurse shall provide a minimum of 400 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty. A nursing education program preparing for licensure as a registered nurse shall provide a minimum of 500 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty.

At its meeting on September 16, 2008, the Board considered additional information regarding distance learning nursing education programs. The Board voted to uphold its decision of May 20, 2008. Any student enrolled in a distance learning nursing education program that does not meet the clinical requirements must complete their program by December 31, 2009 in order to be eligible for licensure in Virginia either by examination or by endorsement.

There are three on-line nursing education programs in Virginia that meet the clinical requirements of the Board of Nursing regulations, and the Board is aware of one out of State on-line programs that also meets the clinical requirements. Below is a list of the schools and their contact information. The list of schools does not represent endorsement by the Board of Nursing of one program over another.

Northern Virginia Community College, Springfield, Virginia
Contact: Florence Richman
Phone: 1-703-822-6579

VCCS Commonwealth Program, Midlothian, Virginia
Contact: Barbara Laird
Phone: 1-804-622-8726

Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, Virginia
Contact: Cynthia Parsons
Phone: 1-804-862-5801

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana
Contact: Joelle Downs or Kim Cook
Phone: 1-812-237-3330 or 1-812 237-2318